

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09687 290621Z
ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9003

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9687

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: DISPUTE OVER PROPOSED FREIGHTER CAPACITY INCREASES

REF: TOKYO 9642

1. SUMMARY: GOJ NOTE STATES THAT FREIGHTER CAPACITY
PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHER IMMEDIATE
ISSUES. EMBASSY SUGGESTS WE OFFER COMPROMISE OF "BLOCKING
OFF" CAPACITY WITHIN NEW AIRCRAFT TEMPORARILY IN
ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES AND ARRIVE AT A PACKAGE
PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF NOTE SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL IS
AS FOLLOWS:

" THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFIARS HAS THE HONOR TO
EXPRESS ITS RESPECTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA IN JAPAN, AND TO CONVEY THE VIEWS OF THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOWS, CONVERNING THE PROBLEM
OF ENLARGING THE SIZE OF CARGO FLIGHTS, REGARDING WHICH
APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RESPECTIVELY PRESENTED BY THREE
AMERICAN ENTERPRISES TO THE JAPANESE CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITIES CONCERNED:

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"CONCERNING THE WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR A CHANGE
IN THE BUSINESS PLANS OF THE THREE AMERICAN ENTERPRISES,
TRANSMITTED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
JAPAN IN AMERICA (THE APPLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST
AIRLINES, DATED MAY 9, 1977, THE APPLICATIONS OF THE
FLYING TIGER AND PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES, DATED THE 11TH
OF THE SAME MONTH), THE PROBLEM OF ENLARGING THE SIZE

OF CARGO FLIGHTS IS ONE OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOW CONFRONTING THE JAPAN-UNITED STATES CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS, AND THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOW CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PACKAGE SETTLEMENT OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS THOUGHT THAT IT IS BASICALLY DIFFICULT TO APPROVE SEPARATELY THIS CHANGE IN BUSINESS PLANS, THROUGH THE ENLARGING OF THE SIZE OF CARGO FLIGHTS, BEFORE THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT US ARE SETTLED."

3. COMMENT: WATANABE'S ORAL ELABORATION (REFTEL); I.E., THAT GOJ'S JUNE 17 POSITION ON FREIGHTER ISSUE REPRESENTS THEIR FINAL OFFER, SET FORTH MORE DEFINITIVE AND FIRMER GOJ POSITION THAN THAT EXPRESSED IN NOTE. IT APPEARS CLEAR TO US, BOTH FROM NOTE AND WATANABE'S PRESENTATION, THAT IF WE DO NOT OFFER AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON THE FREIGHTER ISSUE, THE OTHER PARTS OF THE GOJ'S JUNE 17 PACKAGE: E.G., THE SAIPAN SERVICE, CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED. WASHINGTON IS OBVIOUSLY IN THE BEST POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER "GOING TO THE WALL" ON THE FREIGHTER INCREASES, AS FILED, IS WORTH SACRIFICING RESOLUTION OF THE OTHER IMMEDIATE ISSUES.

4. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES GOJ PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS FREIGHTERS' CAPACITY; U.S. CARRIERS, ON OTHER HAND, ARE ANXIOUS TO UTILIZE THESE NEW AIRCRAFT WHICH THEY
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HAVE PROCURED. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, WE SUGGEST WE OFFER A COMPROMISE OF "BLOCKING OFF" CAPACITY WITHIN LARGER FREIGHTERS TO RESTRICT CARGO CARRIAGE TEMPORARILY E.G. UNTIL NOVEMBER 1 TO THAT APPROXIMATING A 707 OR DC-8 IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE SO-CALLED IMMEDIATE ISSUES.
MANSFIELD

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Disposition History: n/a
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